

INSTEAD OF SHELIVING ROOSEVELT  
"BOSS" PLATT KICKED HIM UPSTAIRS

Innermost Secrets of Colonel's Political Advancement Laid Bare.

STORY IS TOLD IN  
AUTOBIOGRAPHY

Only in Face of Charge of "Coward" Did Roosevelt Yield to Vice-Presidential Nomination. What a "Pinch" Administered in Convention Did for the Strenuous One.

([Special To The Times-Dispatch.]  
New York, May 18.—Instead of  
whipping Roosevelt, the United States  
to the charge of kicking him upstairs;  
I believe Roosevelt himself would con-  
fess me of this/—Senator Thomas Col-  
lier.

Declaring that he and he alone was  
responsible for Theodore Roosevelt's  
admission in political life, and as-  
serting that Roosevelt's political  
career had reached a critical moment during a  
political gathering, the colonel would  
be the next president of the  
United States, Senator Thomas Col-  
lier, once dictator of New York Re-  
publicanism, in his autobiography,  
"The Life of a Citizen," published in  
the magazine of next month, tells one of  
the most picturesque stories of the  
life of a politician that has yet reached  
the United States and always hood-  
winked public.

He tells how he determined to make Roosevelt Governor of New York because the colonel had become a hero on account of the skirmishes in Cuba; disclosed the difficulties he encountered; related in detail the incidents of those last days before the convention when Roosevelt tried to back out and only continued the fight in the face of the charge, "Coward," made by the Boss.

**Driven Into Line.**

There follows the narrative of the two great activities of Roosevelt: of his successful campaign for the election of his house-cleaning methods; the scheme to sidetrack him as Vice-President; and how the colonel managed to escape what he thought was a trap, and how the delegates were driven into line and how the colonel was finally elected to the office of Vice-President or nothing. The whole story is an assertion on the part of Platt that he had been the first Governor when Vice-President of the United States, then Vice-President of the United States, then President of the United States. Without Platt's counsel and the use of his position, Roosevelt would not have reached the position he now holds in the Republican party. The story of the colonel's life.

Later in the year 1895, while division was acute among the New York leaders as to who should be the candidate for Governor, Roosevelt, covered with military glory and the reputation of a great soldier, was asked by the Governor, Mr. Ely Quigg, to Montauk Point, where the colonel was camped with his troops, to accept the nomination. Mr. Quigg to sound the colonel's opinion as to whether he would be a good Governor. Mr. Quigg found the colonel more than pleased with the suggestion.

When Quigg plumped at Roosevelt he questioned, "Would you accept the Republican nomination for Governor?" "I would not," he replied. "I am a Democrat. Like cracks from a rifle, the kallant ballot came back with: " "I would like to be delighted," "The people count," Sousa, a Platts support. Come to the Fifth Avenue Hotel to see him," was Quigg's reply. Roosevelt came to the Fifth Avenue Hotel. "We have long and hard differences. He agreed to head the Republican State ticket, if nominated by a consensus with me and other party leaders. He agreed to support legislation in case he was elected. When Colonel Roosevelt parted from me, he said, "I am your enemy. I want to work to nominate and elect you."

**Was Roosevelt Eligible for Governor?**

The perplexing and all but fatal incidents that occurred prior to the State convention at Saratoga Springs, Sept. 28-29, 1893, were described by him in a recent magazine article, as follows:

"I was elected to the position of president, while he candidacy was in process of development, the opponents of his nomination became apprised of the fact that I had been elected to the office. Mr. Roosevelt was Assistant Secretary of the Navy, he had sworn off his taxes and was a resident of the District of Columbia, and therefore was ineligible for the governorship of New York State. His nomination would use this fact to the approaching State convention, to a great extent, called a meeting of my friends at the hotel where I resided. We considered methods of meeting the expected attack upon eligibility. Elihu Root, secretary of the convention, was in the United States Senate, so many of those present at the meeting. So was

While this meeting was being held, a committee representing the opposition to Mr. Roosevelt, headed by Edward Lauterbach, called at my rooms and I met with them. Mr. Lauterbach, Louis Payn and others were the principals, and they were all earnest advocates of the renomination of Governor Roosevelt. I met with them, and my friends and I went to meet this committee. They had with them Mr. Roosevelt's affidavit of his non-residence in the State of New York. They asked me to read and explain it, and in the face of such a declaration, it would be possible to proceed with the election. I read the affidavit, and the declaration. Lacking any other expedient, I informed them that if they were satisfied with all the facts they would have to make their own judgment. After I hoped to apprise them of such facts, I then rejoined my friends in their room, and reported to them the results of the meeting. Mr. Lauterbach had presented for my consideration

"At this juncture Mr. Roosevelt took a pause, and said, with a trepidation I had never before and have never since experienced, 'I am not coming in this fight; I must withdraw from the race.'"

"His desire to withdraw was made plain to every one in the room. The fatal effect of his withdrawal was me so manifest that I replied: 'You must not so manifest the problem and I, Governor of the State.'"

"He began to emphasize my declaration and said, 'I am not coming in this fight with brutal frankness: Is the hero of San Juan a coward?'"

"I replied emphatically and indignantly: 'No, I am his customary verbiage.'"

"We then resumed the discussion of the methods of procedure, and, at my suggestion, the subject was discussed."

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With Mr. Woerlein uttering protest after protest, accusing the administration of "carelessness," and charging that at the constitutional technicalities had been invoked only for this special matter, an appeal was taken from the ruling, resulting in a vote of 33 to 42 in favor of sustaining the ruling. President Droop as to the persons it passed upon by the membership committee.

By a standing vote of 81 to 40, the previous question was ordered. Mr. Woerlein demanded a roll call for a more accurate vote. This consumed much time, but ended in a vote of 100

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THEODORE ROOSEVELT

# ONE HUNDRED PEOPLE ARE KILLED BY AN EXPLOSION OF DYNAMITE

Fragments of Their Bodies Scattered Over Country for Distance of a Mile, While Shower of Masonry and Debris Cover City of Pinar Del Rio.

Relief Trains Rusted From Havana to Scene of Disaster, Where Work of Rescue Is Going On—Explosive Being Removed to Barracks for Safe-keeping When It Let Go.

Havana, May 18.—Two almost simultaneous explosions of dynamite, supposed to consist of 3,000 pounds, completely demolished the rural guard barracks in the city of Pinar Del Rio this afternoon. Fully 30 persons were killed, and nearly a many injured.

Most of the dead were vulgarians, but the entire families of several of the officers of the rura guard, it is reported, were killed also, as well as several employes of the textile works and transient and resident of the city on which fell a deluge of masonry and debris from the blownup building.

It is not known yet whether the explosion was the result an accident or due to an act of conspirators, but the former hypothesis is considered the more probable. Several trains carrying sugar, coffee and other men of the rura guard and government officials, started in afternoon from Havana to the one of the catastrophe, which is 18 miles distant.

The names of the deceased have not yet been reported. With the exception of Captain Alfredo Rena and Captain Gastón Betancourt of the garrison, and their family who are reported to be buried in the ruins of the officers' quarters adjacent to the barracks.

**For safe-keeping.**

In consequence of a alarm over the disturbances, the government ordered the deposits of hamlets in the vicinity in the possession of contractors for road construction and other public works to be moved to the barracks for safe-keeping. This afternoon the work of removing the dynamite from the barracks for shipment to the government magazines in Havana was begun. Employees of the public works department, assisted by rural guards,

They were engaged loading cases of the dynamite on wagons when a terrific explosion occurred. Instantly followed by another, sewing the centration of the cases, which were scattered in all directions, and dead and wounded. The large massive barrack building was destroyed, the adjacent row of officers' quarters was demolished, and the whole northern section of the town was covered with a tere of fragments of masonry.

The explosions occured at 5 o'clock, a few seconds before the men would have quit work, and is generally believed to have been caused by the accidental fall of a box of dynamite which was belifted on a derrick. It is impossible, however, to determine absolutely the cause, for the explosion was so immediate and so violent that the fragments of dynamite was blown in fragments.

It is believed that the majority of the wounded are residents of the town, as practically all within the barracks were instantly killed, buried in the

# MATTER SETTLED WITHOUT DEBATE

### Agreement on "Vanderbilt Question" Decided Victory for Church.

**CONFERENCE ENDS MONDAY**  
Election of Connectional Officers  
Completed at Morning  
Session.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)  
Asheville, N. C., May 18.—Contrary to all expectations, the "Vanderbilt question" was settled this morning by the Episcopal Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, without any discussion whatever. The presentation of this subject to the conference had been fixed as an order of the day for this morning and when the time arrived, and even long before the conference room was crowded with delegates and visitors. These were anxious to be present when disposition was made of the question, which had been discussed since the opening of the conference, and long before the crisis point in the session. The expectation was that a war of words would ensue when the report of the committee on education was presented, but the contrary. Bishop James Atkins was present and called for the reading of the report. It was read carefully, the substance of which appeared in The Times-Dispatch of to-day. Immediately there were numerous questions asked and the question was put to the house at once and the report was adopted.

This action is regarded as a distinct victory for the church in this matter, but the opinion is not wanting that this settlement is not final and that further action may be necessary before a final conclusion is reached that will be satisfactory as to the relation of the Vanderbilt University to the church. The action taken this morning was an acceptance on the part of the conference of the finding of the "Vanderbilt commission" which commission rendered a decision to the effect that the University was the property of the church, to be controlled by the church, that the bishops of the church are common law visitors; that the General Conference has the right to elect the board of trust through a committee or such agency as it desires, and that his right belongs to the General Conference now and in the future.

**Connectional Officers.**  
The election of connectional officers was completed at the session this morning. W. F. McMurrian was elected, missionary secretary, and second ballot, he having received 185 out of 279 votes. East, W. F. McMurrian was re-elected secretary of the board of church extension, having received 249 out of the 278 votes cast on the first ballot.  
H. M. Dubose, for the past eight years secretary of the Epworth League, and editor of the Epworth Standard, was elected to the conference that was held at the church four years ago. He had previously gone back into the pastorate at this time and he requested the members of the

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# OFFICERS ARREST INSURANCE MEN

### Warrants Served Against Mem- bers of Southeastern Tariff Association

**HEARING SET FOR JUNE 8**  
Action Follows Recent Raise of Rates in Newport News

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]  
Hot Springs, Va., May 18.—A sensation was created here this morning by the arrest of officers and members of the Southeastern Insurance Tariff Association, in session at the Homestead. When informed that warrants had been issued by the city of Newport News for the arrest of officers and the executive committee of the association for raising rates and discrimination, there was a miniature panic.

Warrants issued by Police Justice J. D. Warrington, Bath County News, on the technical charge of common law riot, misdemeanor were served on the following: D. B. Harris, president; A. B. Andrews, general manager, and the members of the executive committee, C. M. Smith, secretary, R. T. Cardwell, George H. Conlin, E. B. Harlow, L. Hughes, W. R. Prescott, Dana Blackmar, H. C. Hare, J. S. Middleton, B. J. Smith and H. M. Tanner.

J. V. Reynolds, the chief of police of Newport, and J. H. Berkeley, attorney at the Commonwealth's Attorney, were here this morning with the warrants, which were served by S. J. Smith, deputy sheriff of Bath county.

At the preliminary hearing this afternoon, before Justice W. Howard Jones, the men gave bond in the sum of \$500 each. The bond was secured by the Virginia delegation to the association, owning real estate, for their appearance before the Police Justice in Newport News, on June 8.

The affair has created a sensation in insurance circles, and came as a complete surprise to the entire association.

The city of Newport News has taxed all insurance companies 5 per cent on their income. In view of this it was recently decided by the members of the association to retaliate by making a 10 per cent increase in all insurance rates in Newport News. For some time the members of the association have been waiting for an opportunity to take action, when all the members of the association were in the State. The first opportunity that presented itself was this morning, when the meeting was called.

Members of the Underwriters' Association said to-night that the action of the authorities amounted to an indignity upon the insurance companies, stating that a few years ago, Newport News imposed a tax of \$100 per annum on insurance companies for the privilege of transacting business in that city; that an increase in rates was made to cover the charges by agreement with the city officials of Newport News, the increase was abrogated by reducing the tax to a rate of \$50 a year.

Since then it was stated the authorities have again increased the rates of

THE COMET COMES,  
THE COMET GOES;  
STILL WE'RE HERE

**Journey Through Heav-  
enly Visitor's Tail  
Made in Safety.**

NO WORSE OFF,  
NO BETTER OFF

In Fact, Earth Is Mighty Little  
Wiser—Few Phenomena to Tell  
That Momentous Event Was  
Taking Place—Spots on  
Sun Weirdest Thing  
Found.

The comet came, the comet went and this old earth is no worse and no better off, and thus far, very little wiser. There was no collision, as the superstitious and the ignorant feared, and now that the comet is headed away from us, there will be no recurrence of the manifestations of terror that were recorded from all parts of the country and of the world.

The earth did pass through the tail of the comet, and simultaneously brilliant auroral displays were seen from Williams Bay, Wis., Milwaukee and elsewhere, but the majority of astronomers were not willing to concede that the streamers in the heavens were consequent upon the presence of cometic matter in our atmosphere.

Nobody suffered from deadly cyanogen gas. Comet parties were held everywhere—in the streets, on roof tops, in gardens—but for all that was visible to the naked eye, the tail of the comet was indeed "the veriest approach to nothing set in the midst of naught."

**Sun Spots Seen.**

In fact, the phenomena of the daylight hours of yesterday were far the more interesting. During the afternoon sun spots were observed in varying numbers about the same hour from five Western observatories, but the astronomers who recorded them were almost unanimous in the belief that these disturbances of the solar atmosphere had nothing to do with the approach of the comet and were merely coincidental.

Thirty sun spots were seen from St. Louis, of which the largest was estimated to be 150,000 miles across; two from San Jose, Cal., with thirteen surrounding pores, or smaller spots; three "considerably accentuated" spots from Chicago, three connected spots from Vallejo, Cal., and two from Portland.

None of the earth observatories had anything of note to report either in the day or night. At Chicago and Williams Bay, Wis., where is the great Yerkes telescope, the conditions for observations seemed the best of the astronomers, they were confident that the negative as well as the positive results of their examination would be of lasting scientific value.

The whole performance took little more than five hours. Observers differed as to the exact time at which the earth began to pass through the comet's tail, but the general opinion averages between 10 and 11 o'clock last night. The combined speed of the earth and the tail of the comet was estimated at slightly more than forty-six miles a second, and the breadth of the tail about a million miles.

Friday the comet will become visible again, headed away from us, with its tail sticking straight up out of the Western sky, a little above the spot where the sun sinks. There will then be no light from the rising sun to dim the glory of the spectacle and it is likely to be far more majestic than in the stages of its approach. At the end of a month, goodbye for another seventy-five years.

**Valuable Records Secured.**  
Yerkes Observatory, Williams Bay, Wis., May 3, 1914, passed through the tail of Halley's comet. Astronomers at the Yerkes observatory tonight obtained photographs and accurate records of meteoric phenomena and varying heavenly illumination under most auspicious and nearly perfect for work with camera and telescope. The pictures and data are said to be of unusual value, and may develop scientific information and knowledge of unexpected importance. The observer, Edward B. Barnard, an authority on comets, was most pleased with the result of his observations, which extended over forty-eight hours most without interruption. According to first computations from

servations made here, the earth en-  
compassed the million-mile breadth of tall  
a combined speed of earth and tall  
slightly more than forty-six miles  
second. At this rate the assembled  
physicists agreed that the passage  
would occupy a period of little more  
than five hours.

Manhattan Seeks Comet.

New York, May 13.—From the four  
great bridges across the East River,  
the decks of ferryboats, from pier  
heads and wharves, from the islands  
in harbor, from rooftops and from the  
entire length of the Riverside Drive,  
the people of Manhattan swarmed and  
clustered to-night to peer into the west